

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR,
SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: (A) MEXICO A-55; (B) MEXICO 2141; (C) MEXICO 180

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR EMBASSY'S
PRESENTATION NEW US PROPOSAL (SEPTEL) FOR 1975 MEAT PRO-
GRAM AND ANSWERS QUESTIONS RAISED REF A .

2. OBVIOUS NEGATIVE FEATURE OF US PROPOSAL FOR MEXICO IS
REDUCED ALLOCATION FROM ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. EMBASSY MAY
POINT OUT TO GOM OFFICIALS THAT REDUCTION IS CONSEQUENCE
OF FORMULA WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY BENEFITS HEMISPHERE
SUPPLIERS AS A WHOLE AND ARISES SOLELY FROM DECREASE IN
MEXICAN EXPORTS TO US DURING 1973-74. WE EXPECT THAT
PROPOSED LOWER ALLOCATION WILL HAVE NO PRACTICAL EFFECT ON
MEXICAN EXPORTS TO THE US SINCE RELATIVE CATTLE PRICES
IN TWO MARKETS APPEAR LIKELY TO CONTINUE DISCOURAGE TRADE
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(REF B) EMBASSY MAY ALSO INDICATE THAT PERIODIC ADJUSTMENTS

IN ALLOCATION BASIS FOR US MEAT PROGRAM ARE BOTH REASONABLE AND NECESSARY TO PROVIDE EQUITY IN DEALING WITH CHANGING SUPPLY CAPACITIES OF EXPORTING COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, US POLICY IS TO CONTINUE IN FUTURE YEARS AS IN THE PAST TO MAINTAIN AS LIBERAL MARKET ACCESS AS POSSIBLE, AND TO ADJUST COUNTRY SHARES AS NECESSARY, CONSISTENT WITH MAINTAINING THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF THE DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY AS REQUIRED BY 1964 MEAT IMPORT LAW. THUS, MEXICO CAN EXPECT TO HAVE CONTINUED ACCESS TO THE US MARKET FOR MEAT, GENERALLY IN LINE WITH THE EVOLUTION OF ITS EXPORT CAPACITY.

3. US HOPES THAT MEANS CAN BE FOUND WHEREBY PREVIOUS GOM ANNOUNCEMENT 1975 MEAT EXPORT AUTHORIZATION WILL NOT BE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO OBTAINING AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY MARCH 21, ESPECIALLY SINCE ANNOUNCED LEVEL MEANT TO REPRESENT MAXIMUM LEVEL EXPORTS AND IN 1975 ANNOUNCED 66 MIL. LB. LEVEL NOT REACHED. -- MOREOVER, GOM AGREEMENT AT ONLY SLIGHTLY BELOW ANNOUNCED LEVEL, GIVEN CURRENT TRADE OUTLOOK, SHOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE GOM AVOID POLITICAL PROBLEMS CITED PARA 3 REF C.

4. RE PROPOSED POINT 4 EXCLUSION IN DRAFT MEXICAN NOTE, REFAIR, US UNABLE ACCEPT THIS PROVISION. 1964 LAW, INCLUDING PROVISION FOR SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE'S IMPORT ESTIMATE WHICH CAN TRIGGER QUOTAS, SPECIFICALLY APPLIES TO IMPORTS UNDER TSUS ITEMS 106.10 AND 106.20, WITH NO PROVISION FOR EXCLUSIONS. FYI-ONLY WAY TO EXCLUDE MEAT AS PROPOSED BY GOM WOULD BE TO AMEND 1964 LAW OR AMEND TARIFF SCHEDULES TO PLACE SUCH MEAT IN DIFFERENT CATEGORY BOTH PROCEDURES LENGTHY AND HIGHLY DOUBTFUL GIVEN CURRENT DEPRESSED STATUS OF US CATTLE INDUSTRY AND CONCERN OVER RECENT MEXICAN TARIFF MEASURES AFFECTING US EXPORTS LIVESTOCK TO MEXICO. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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